

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-01 INR-07 AGR-10 EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9955

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1585

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, CS

SUBJECT: STATUS OF CATIE

REF: GUATEMALA 2031

1. IICA DIRECTOR-GENERAL ARAUJO TELEPHONED ME APRIL 21 TO GIVE ASSURANCES ALONG LINES OF REFTEL THAT IICA IS FULLY COMMITTED TO CARRY OUT TEN-YEAR PROGRAM WITH CATIE AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED. ARAUJO SAID IT COULD BE EXPECTED THAT RECTORS OF UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA WOULD PRESS FOR CHANGE IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, BUT THAT NOT TOO MUCH ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THAT, PARTICULARLY SINCE UNIVERSITY CANNOT FINANCE OPERATION AND COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO DESIRE TO LOSE INCOME AND OTHER BENEFITS IT RECEIVING FROM CATIE. ARAUJO APOLOGIZED FOR APPROACH OF COMPLAINT THAT HAD BEEN MADE TO ME BY CATIE DIRECTOR.

2. I THANKED ARAUJO FOR HIS ASSURANCES AND TOLD HIM THAT OUR ONLY INTEREST IN THE MATTER WAS TO HAVE SOME CLEAR IDEA OF FUTURE OF CATIE SO THAT WE COULD PLAN ACCORDINGLY. I ASSURED HIM THAT CATIE DIRECTOR HAD NOT CALLED ON ME TO COMPLAIN, BUT RATHER TO EXPRESS REGRETS AT BEING ABSENT WHEN I VISITED THE CENTER AND TO INVITE ME TO VISIT AGAIN. I ADDED THAT INFORMATION ON CATIE'S FUTURE, WHICH WAS DISCUSSED WITH CATIE DIRECTOR, HAD BEEN AVAILABLE FROM SEVERAL SOURCES SINCE APPARENTLY THERE WERE CONCERNS

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IN MANY QUARTERS.

3. IN CONVERSATION APRIL 17, UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA
RECTOR GUTIERREZ TOLD ME OF UNIVERSITY'S DESIRE TO TAKE
OVER CATIE BUT ADMITTED THAT UNIVERSITY COULD NOT FINANCE
INSTITUTION AND WOULD HAVE TO RELY FOR SUPPORT ON MAJOR
COSTA RICAN ORGANIZATIONS.

4. IN VIEW OF ARAUJO'S ASSURANCES AND FACT THAT SPECIAL
CHANGES WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN PROCEDURE IN ORDER
TO DISCUSS CATIE AT OTTAWA MEETING IN MAY, EMBASSY NO
LONGER CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL THAT USDEL SEEK TO HAVE
MATTER DISCUSSED AT THIS TIME.
TODMAN

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